

# Yaphank Bennie Elected to Officers' School

By FRAZIER HUNT.

CAMP UPTON, L. I.,  
Monday, Feb. 18.

**FRIEND BARNEY:** Well old Barney here I am back in my company in the old 306th, and believe me talk about having some fatted calves killed for you, well you should ought to have been here. That kid in the bible that run away from home and then come back and had his old man open a lot of wine and stuff for him was a chepe piker compared to me Barney. On the low down, you would have thought I was old General Pershing come home with the Kiser actin as his vallet the way I got treated by everybody around here.

Well it certainly was fine after gettin the raw dees handed to me in that base hospital. I sure got a lot of complaint to make against that institutun the way they doble crossed me all the time. And Barney you should ought to have seen the nurses they ask a sick solder to stand for over there.

Of course they give a fellow medecine and things like that all right but when it comes to cheerin a solder up they are about as successful and welcome as a couple of skeletons would be. And then the way they let a lot of ruff necks impose on patents is something that should be took up by congres.

But what I was going to tell you was the way the boys in my company welcomed me when I got out. You see it was unexpected and after that little experience I had Friday night with that fake stiff when I broke up the officers meetin and everything, and they seen that I was not the kind of a man to monkey with, they decided my broke arm was well enough for me to get out of here so they let me go this morning.

Well I got back to my company at noon just as they was all sittin down to eat and when they seen me everybody hollered and shouted and commenced shouting, Speech, Speech, Speech. Well of course I didn't want to give none but one of the sergeants got up on a bench and said that this would be a red letter day for our company and that even if we never got to Franse we would have one hero anyway, and that he understod congres was ready to vote me a medal of honor for my scoutin that night when I feel into the trench and almost east my life.

Then everybody began hollering again for Speech, Speech, and of course there wasnt anythin for me to do but to give em' one.

I didnt know I was going to get a medal, I said, and boys I dont take no honor on myself at all but give it all to old H company. I only done my duty and Im willing to break my other arm should occasun arise, I said.

Then everybody begun chearing and they kept right on chearing harder than ever when I started talkin so I didn't want to spoil anything so I sat down.

I gues that corporal that I had all them jams with musta felt pretty skinny when I was gettin all this receptun.

BENNIE.

## He Is Elected Unanimously.

Tuesday.

**DEAR GERTIE:** Well I gues I will just about have a surprise for you one of these days that will knock you off the Christmas tree all right. I will not tell you what it all is right now only that if the next time you see me I am wearing an officers uniform you wont need to be shocked or nothing like that. But I gues you will want to know something about it pretty bad so I will tell you just a little because I know it was curiosity that killed the cat.

Gertie I got out of that institutun for the sick out here yesterday and when I got back my company give me a receptun like I was a Crown prinse or something like that. They was speeches and hollering and you would think I had just won a world serces or had made a toehdown for dear old Harvard the way I was treated. And after it was all over last night one or two of the boys come around to me and said I was the first man who had been injured doing his plane duty and they wanted to know if there wasnt something they could do for me or give me.

Well I thought awhile and then I thought maybe you would like that I should be an officer so I said, Well boys if you really want to insist on doing something for me you might elect me to the officers training school and be an officer.

Fine, they said, we can get you at least



TYPICAL SCENE at the CAMP UPTON BARBER SHOP ON A "MUSICAL EVENING."

a captan and maybe after your scouting experiences they would make you a major like Major Bozeman Bulger. Say nothing more, they said, We will tend to everything and we will see that you get what is coming to you.

And after supper tonight we all went up stairs and one of the sergeants called the company to attensun and said that we had a chanst to send another man to the officers school and who should it be. Well right away some solder that I hardly even knowed jumped right up and said, I nominate the man who has brung honor to our dear old company and his name as you all well know is Bennie. Hurray, Hurray, Hurray, they shouted.

Then somebody else said, I move the nominatuns be closed. And everybody hollered Yes, Yes, and then they had a vote and the sergeant made a speech and said I was unamanusly chose to represent old H company.

I gues that wont make a lot of lether neck marines and Blue Jackits feel like a couple of peanuts or nothing, eh Gertie.

Oh, you officers uniforms!

But clothes can never change me Gertie and I will always be your

OLD JAZZ TUNE BENNIE.

## His Mother Hears the Good News.

Wednesday night.

**DEAR MAMA:** Just a line to let you know that I am out of the hospital and am all fine again and that pretty soon I gues I will be a regular officer and be saluted at and called Sir and everything like that. And I gues maybe you wont be proud of your little Bennie when you see me with about ninety bucks worth of scenery on eh Mama.

Yesterday we had an electun in our company to pick a new officer for the officers school and of course Mama you know who they choos. Of course I dont need to say it was I. And I gues I will be a captan without any trouble and I would think that would be pretty good work for me.

My arm is just about well now Mama and when it gets a little stronger I will be a better man than I ever was before Mama. That three or four weeks I had in the hospital was certainly the best thing that ever happened to me in the world.

Well I will be sure to come in and see you Saturday. I may ware my new uniform in, but I dont know sure yet.

Your own

BENNIE.

## Goes to School in Triumph.

OFFICERS TRAINING SCHOOL,

Friday 8 at night.

**BARNEY:** Well old pal I am so nervous I can hardly write because I have certinly have had some receptun tended me. It is 8 o'clock and I am over here at the Officers

school waitin until there classes is over and then the boys is coming back and finish up all the work of getting me in the school. But I will tell you all about it right away while it is still fresh in my memory.

About noon today one of the sergeants in old Company H come up to me and said that everything had been fixed up and I was to report to the Officers School at 5:30 tonight. He said I wouldn't need to take my stuff over because they would send it all over later by some of the common privates.

Well of course that was good news to me and as soon as drill was over and Retrete at 5 I got ready to go on over here. Well just as I was startin I was certainly suprised to see a whole gang of the old boys all lined up outside the barrucks waiting to eskort me over.

Old Company H always does everything right, the sarge said, and we certainly want to see that you get all this done to you right, he said. There is a notificatun comitte gone on ahead to tell the student officers over there, he said.

So with me marchin right up in front we started out and right away a couple of drums begun beating and there was a life and you would think it was the spirit of 76 come to life to see us parad over here to the officers school.

Well when we got over here they was a big crowd of the fellows going to be officers standing on the barrucks steps and in the hall and when they seen me coming they yelled and yelled and certainly give me some big glad hand. And then somebody started yellin Speech, Speech, Speech. And one fellow who was tall and looked kind of familiar to me he come up and shook my hand and said, Welcome, thrice welcome to our company, he said. We have heard a lot about you and we certainly are glad to have you come over with us, he said.

Everybody kept yellin, Speech, Speech, so this tall officer student he said, Better say a few words to the boys, it will make them feel good and they will enjoy it.

So I give them a little speech and you should ought to have heard them birds yell Barney. I gues old Bill Bryan aint got so awful awful much on me after all when it comes to this silver tong stuff, anyway you would not thought so by the hand I got.

Then the boys took me in to supper and made me feel right at home right away. And a funny thing I sat by that tall skinny bird and everybody kept callin him Sam and he knew my name and he called me Bennie. At first I couldnt think where I had saw him before and then I remembered that he was one of them reporter birds that had horned his way into this officers school. Well I wasnt

going to speak to him no more after that at first, and then I got to thinkin that he had joined anyway and wasnt a coward to his country like them other newspaper birds was anyway and that I should ought to trete him like a solder. So we got along fine after that.

Well after supper they all had to dig out to go to some speul study classes so they left me here to wait until they get back at 9. They said I would be a guest this first night.

Some stuff to be an officer I gues not, eh Barney?

BENNIE.

P. S. Sam has just come in to tell me that maybe I should ought to slip over to the headquarters of the officers training school and say hello to the Colonel in charge. So I will slip over now and be back in time to see the boys at 9.

## Back to the Barracks.

Saturday.

**BARNEY:** Marry that widow right away and take the kid and anything but dont get in the army. It aint no place for a white man and a regular guy like I and you. It is full of doble crossers and a lot of cheap birds that think they are smart when they are only plane nuts and worst.

You could not get me to be an officer in this army for two hundred bucks a month or any sum. And I want to tell you that the solders studing to be officers in that training school have got enough bone in their domes to pave a road from here to Frisco and then back again by the way of New Orleans 48 feet wide.

Well I will tell you what they tried to slip on me but didnt. Well when that tall hungry looking bird named Sam who used to be one of them smart newspaper reporters come to tell me to go report to the Colonel I was suspicious. But I thought I would not let him know nothing about it so I went on over there.

Well I am here Colonel McCaskey, I said to the commanding officer of the school. I just got in a little while ago, I said.

What do you mean, he said. Whats your name.

I told him and then he said, Well I dont understand how you happen to come in now when the school is been going for two months. There must be some mistake, he said.

I was voted in, I said. And then when I saw that something was wrong I said right quick, But I gues I will go on back to my old company.

Well I hate to lose you, he said with a frendly smile, but maybe you know best.

So I decided I would come on back here and I saluted and went on out. Well of course nothing being on me and I catching on like that and slipping one on all the boys in the company I walked right into the barrucks here like I owned them.

Of course we did a lot of spoofing and I gues I let em have it with both barrels, but I did get sore when the first sergeant come up and said, What do you mean by being absent from mes without permissun? It is libble to cost you six days kitchen police, he said.

I didnt say nothing because my left arm is week yet but when I can use it again and that sarge ever says another word to me I will knock about 300 bucks worth of teeth down his throte, and he will think he has got mixed up with the big spring drive over in Franse. I would like to see the color of the gents whiskers that can slip anything ruff over on me, eh Barney?

BENNIE.

## Shakespeare Backs Hoover

**HERBERT C. HOOVER**, if so inclined, could go to Shakespeare for appropriate maxims concerning food economy. Wise saws for the present times abound in the plays of the Bard of Avon.

An excellent resolution from "As You Like It" is:

"We will nothing waste."

Here's advice from "Hamlet":

"From this time

Be somewhat scanter."

In "Romeo and Juliet" is this individual appeal:

"And stint thou, too, pray thee."

It is learned in "Henry V." that our allies suffer:

"The English are shrewdly out of beef."

To quote "As You Like It" again:

"It is a spare life, look you."

Censure for overindulgence in food is put thus in "Antony and Cleopatra":

"Tis not a time

"For private stomaching."